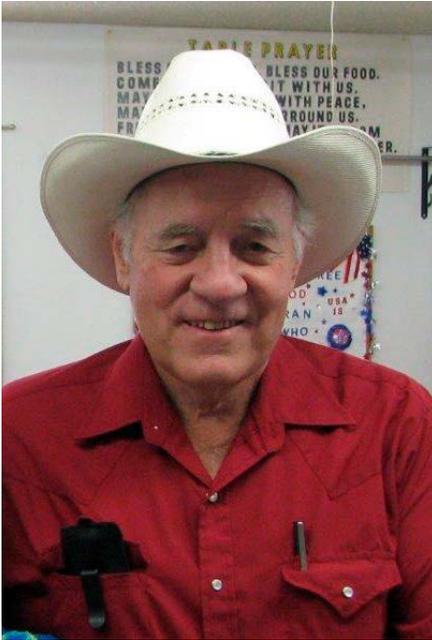


Heritage Keepers, Heritage Guardian Honored with Awards



Bud Cheff Jr.



Birdie Real Bird



Bev and Gene Allen

Bev and Gene Allen, Birdie Real Bird, and Bud Cheff Jr. are the 2021 Heritage Award honorees, with A&E Design earning special recognition as the 2021 Heritage Guardian.

The Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees chose the Heritage Keepers and Guardian from a large field of nominees, noting that they were all high-caliber but these five rose to the top based on their contributions to Montana history.

The annual awards honor exemplary commitment, effort, and impact in identifying, preserving, and presenting Montana's historical and cul-

tural heritage for current and future generations. Up to three Heritage Keeper awards are given out each year. Additionally, the Montana Heritage Guardian Award recognizes the record of accomplishment of one of the nominees, but the board reserves the right to not award it each year unless warranted by a record of outstanding achievements.

A&E Design includes a team of specialists who have dedicated their careers to historic preservation. On projects including Missoula's Bluebird Building, the State Capitol Building in Helena, and the Old Faithful Inn in Yellowstone National

Park, the fifty-year-old company always shows its passion for ensuring that future generations view Montana's history through the unique lens of its historic structures.

A&E Design has offices in Billings, Bozeman, Missoula, Kalispell, and Seattle.

"Thanks to the vision of Jim McDonald, Jim Bos, and the other founding partners, A&E has made it their mission and their avocation to champion the preservation of our state's significant historic places," Chere Jiusto, executive director of Preserve Montana, wrote in a letter of support.

Heritage Keeper Bud Cheff Jr.

Heritage Keepers (cont. on p. 7)

Civics and Leadership

The Montana Historical Society is governed by a fifteen-member Board of Trustees. This spring we welcomed five new trustees, who were appointed by Gov. Greg Gianforte and confirmed by the Montana Senate. These new trustees will afford us fresh viewpoints and perspectives as the Montana Historical Society continues to evolve.

Jestin Dupree

was born and raised in Poplar and served seventeen years in the U.S. Army. He is a fully enrolled member of the Fort Peck Tribes and serves on the executive committee of the Fort Peck Tribal Council and the board of the Poplar School District.



Tim Fox

is from Hardin and holds three degrees from the University of Montana, in geology (BA), law (JD), and public administration (MPA). He has practiced law in Montana for thirty-four years and served as Montana's attorney general from 2013 to 2021.



Bill Jones

is president of the Twodot Land & Livestock Co., a six-generation family ranching operation near Harlowton. He helped reopen and manage the Bair Family Museum at Martinsdale and served on the Charles M. Bair Family Trust when the new museum facility



was built. He has been active in the Montana history community for many years, serving as the chairman of the Montana Cultural Trust from 2018 to 2021.

Ken Robison

is the historian for the Overholser Historical Research Center in Fort Benton and is active in historic preservation groups in the Sun River Valley and Great Falls. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Montana and a master's degree from George Mason University. Ken served twenty-nine years in Naval Intelligence and is the author or co-author of thirteen books on Montana history.



Norma Ashby Smith

is a fourth-generation Montanan who graduated from the University of Montana and worked in the journalism industry. During her twenty-six-year television career, she was hostess and producer of the long-running *Today in Montana* show. She served on the Greater Montana Foundation board, was the originator of the C.M. Russell Auction, and coordinates the Montana History Teacher of the Year award.



As we move forward, we also bid a fond farewell to five trustees who were appointed by Gov. Steve Bullock but were not confirmed by the senate during the 2021 legislative session. Cliff Edwards, Chuck Johnson, Sam Phares, Sara Scott, and Mike Shields worked diligently to promote and advo-



cate for MHS during their tenure as trustees. We wish them well and offer our heartfelt thanks for their service.

Even as we miss the leadership of Cliff, Chuck, Sam, Sara, and Mike, we welcome our five new trustees to the MHS family. With the support and guidance of Jestin, Tim, Bill, Ken, and Norma, along with that of our ten continuing trustees, we at MHS look forward to the next few years of planning, designing, and constructing the Montana Heritage Center, and continuing to preserve and share the varied stories of Montana.

Additional information on the MHS Board of Trustees is available at <https://mhs.mt.gov/about/Trustees>.

About Us

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A Blast from the Past! Mining Montana History



The Silver Bow County sanitary commission took photographs underground and on the surface to capture the unsanitary conditions of Butte and its working environment. The caption for this photograph is "Black Streaks [Are] No 1 'A' Ore. The Drill When Working, Makes Air Very Dusty." *Silver Bow County Sanitary Conditions Report*, ca. 1910, Lot 008 B1F9.04.

After a year of isolation and social distancing, we are doubly excited to be gathering with our friends in the Mining City on September 23–25 for **A Blast from the Past! Mining Montana History**.

Now in its forty-eighth year, the Montana History Conference is an annual gathering of history enthusiasts from across the state and the nation. The conference begins on Thursday with workshops ranging from re-registering your livestock brand to tips for getting your historical books and articles published. Thursday also offers an educators' workshop and the ever-popular, day-long Made in Montana Tour, which will include stops as varied as Montana Precision Products and

Montana Craft Malt to the Anselmo Mine and Bluebird Mill.

Thursday evening will find us in historic Uptown sampling "A Taste of Butte" in a progressive reception featuring the Elks Club, Headframe Distillery, and 51 Below Speakeasy. Afterward, the adventurous can join Ellen Baumler for tales of historical otherworldly encounters followed by a visit to some of Butte's most haunted places.

On Friday and Saturday, conference sessions will feature a wide array of speakers and topics including scandals at the State Highway Commission and the State Normal College in Dillon to the Great Explosion of 1895 and tales of Butte's infamous "Galloping Gallows."

Other subjects will include Butte's food history and African American history; the work of female photographers Ella Mad Plume Yellow Wolf, Rhodina B. Bundy, and Phebe Train; time-lapse photography imposing historical scenes on contemporary vistas; the differing artistic visions of Elizabeth Lochrie and Voldemar Podder; stories from the Butte-Silver Bow Public Archives; American Indian warriors; and the Big Sky experiences of Irish, Chinese, and Czech immigrants.

Saturday afternoon, the conference concludes with a variety of field trips highlighting more of Butte's historical and cultural treasures—

A Blast from the Past (cont. on p. 4)

Bear Root and Sage

BY ZOE ANN STOLTZ

Ramey Growing Thunder, director for the Fort Peck Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes Language and Culture Department, and colleagues came to the Montana Historical Society in May to “learn how to do research from your institution.”

As MHS staff prepared to accommodate Ms. Growing Thunder, Richard Peterson, Jennifer Yellow Hammer, and Winona Runs Above-Kill Eagle, I was unaware that the sharing and learning would run both ways.

On May 13 and 14, MHS staff introduced the visitors to museum collections (three-dimensional objects) cataloging and care, as well as research center collections (written and published words) cataloging and research. Our experts discussed the Montana Memory Project, digitization, and pitfalls of online searches. Photo historian Jeff Malcomson and state archivist Rich Aarstad shared research center secrets. Rowena Harrington emphasized preservation science while sharing museum collections. Katie White kept everyone happy with her coffee.

By mid-afternoon, the Poplar folks had applied these lessons to planning and compiling their own research. They enjoyed hours

on the Montana Newspapers site <http://montananewspapers.org> after discovering the digitized 1975–2007 Poplar *Wotanin Wowapi*, the official Fort Peck tribal newspaper. When a break was needed from newspapers, they studied Poplar photos. At least one group member focused on articles featuring foodways and culture. Another participant scoured the research center catalog at https://mtsc.ent.sirsi.net/client/en_US/MT-HIST. Her requests included books, photos, and manuscripts, covering both Assiniboine and Sioux tribal histories. Other topics included Poplar and Riverside boarding schools, oral histories, and individual biographies and stories.

MHS employees always enjoy witnessing the discovery process as much as experiencing it ourselves. This group gave us innumerable moments of joy, especially when they recognized grandparents in photos and located the Fry Bread King’s not-so-secret fry bread recipe. But the exchange of information went beyond the newspapers and manuscripts. They taught me the difference between Fort Peck and Fort Belknap Assiniboine (no excuse for my ignorance). Staff were

gifted chokecherry suckers, and I was taught the medicinal uses for bear root and sage, the teas of which alleviate inflammation. Bear root smells like a combination of celery and horehound.

Ultimately, their passion and commitment to acquiring cultural and historical knowledge energized me. As they headed home, Mr. Peterson explained, “The only trouble with this place is it has so much information!” Hopefully, they are willing to make the 450-mile trip again. But then, the road goes both ways! 🌟

Thank You! Spring Appeal Raises Historic Total: \$40,833

We are so thankful to all our supporters, but especially those who donated to our spring appeal. Our grand total (so far) is \$40,833!

We cannot thank you enough. It is because of your support that the Montana Historical Society is set to excel in 2021, serving more people than ever before.

Our goal was to raise \$30,000, which was \$6,000 more than we raised in 2019 (due to COVID-19, we suspended our 2020 spring fundraiser). This year, we changed things up and focused on the Education and Outreach Program, telling the stories of how students and educators across the state benefit from our Montana history programming, including the creation of a new fourth-grade textbook and teachers’ guide.

Thanks to our donors’ generosity, all our programs received financial support, including the Montana Heritage Center (more on this soon). We are so grateful. For a full report, please contact Ginny Sullivan, Development Officer, at virginia.sullivan@mt.gov. 🌟

A Blast from the Past (cont. from p. 3)

including churches, headframes, brothels, and museums.

“What makes a non-Helena conference successful is local support and enthusiasm. And Butte has offered that in spades!” said organizer Kirby Lambert. “We would not be able to pull this conference off without help from our Mining City colleagues, especially the staff at the Butte-Silver Bow Archives and a variety of other incredibly dedicated

individuals and organizations too numerous to mention.”

Likewise, funding from the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation, Montana History Foundation, and Montana Resources is greatly appreciated.

For complete information and registration details, visit <https://mhs.mt.gov/education/ConferencesWorkshops> or email klambert@mt.gov. 🌟

SHPO Staff Surveys Beavertown

In April, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) staff surveyed the Erickson Homestead in Beavertown, a stagecoach station site in the shadow of Interstate 15 in Jefferson County. The survey is the outgrowth of property owner and MHS member, Allen Tompkins, sharing some of the pre-contact stone tools Tompkins's ancestors unearthed while working the land with state archaeologist Jessica Bush.

Tompkins is graciously donating the artifacts to SHPO as teaching aids. They indicate that Beavertown, nestled in a topographically logical transportation route over Boulder Hill, is a multi-layered pre-contact and historic site. What makes the Beavertown Creek and Prickly Pear Creek drainages ideal for highway travel also made it ideal for migrating animals, indigenous hunters, stages carrying the mail, and ore-loaded trains.

Tompkins's grandparents, Frank and Hedwig Erickson, established their homestead in 1906. The Erickson's house, which Tompkins indicates was the stage station, fronted the Last Chance Express stage route running between Helena and Virginia City, established in 1865. Railroads in the 1880s and the county road department co-opted the stage's right-of-way for succeeding modes of transportation.

However, a four-inch-long knife made of chert, likely sourced within the Prickly Pear Valley, indicates human activity going back thou-



Left to right: Bill and Allen Tompkins, Damon Murdo, Eric Newcombe, Jessica Bush, Laura Evilsizer, Kyler Mozell, Pete Brown (kneeling), and Renee Kelley stand before the Beavertown Stage Station and Erickson Homestead house.

sands of years.

"Finding a relatively intact stone tool of this size is uncommon," Bush said. "This beautiful piece makes you appreciate the expertise needed to create stone tools. I think that anyone today who works with their hands can appreciate the time and effort that went into the manufacture of this knife, starting with obtaining the raw material, the knapping of the blade, and the hafting of the final product."

Mr. Tompkins added, "By preserving this property, we're giving visitors to Montana a chance to see what this country looked like in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Much of



The chert knife blade the Ericksons unearthed at Beavertown.

that is gone from the valley."

SHPO staff will return to Beavertown in 2021 to conduct a more detailed archaeological survey. 🌟

Opinions Wanted

The Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is revising the state's five-year preservation plan and needs your input on how we and Montana's preservation community can better promote and facilitate preservation across

the state.

The ten-question survey provides an opportunity to express opinions and identify emerging preservation issues. SHPO will synthesize survey results and revise the current plan's issues, goals, objectives, and strategies for a 2023 rollout.

Thank you for giving a little of

your time to help us capture Montana preservationists' diverse perspectives! The survey and current state plan are accessible via this QR code and link below.



<https://mhs.mt.gov/Shpo/About/PreservationPlan> 🌟

MHS Awards Two Fellowships to Researchers

Two researchers will use the Montana Historical Society Research Center to delve into history, courtesy of annual fellowships.

Patrick Hoehne from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln recently was awarded the James H. Bradley Fellowship, which supports academic research that makes a significant contribution to the study of Montana history. Hoehne’s project looks at reframing extralegal activity in the West through reinterpreting the history of vigilantism in territorial Montana.

“I plan to leverage my skills in geospatial information systems, network analysis, and web development in order to make the history of Montana vigilantism interactive, engaging, and accessible,” Hoehne said.

Hoehne has completed his

third year as a PhD student in the University of Nebraska history department. Bradley Fellows spend three weeks at the MHS Research Center, using its collections to further their research. They also submit an article, based on their research, to *Montana the Magazine of Western History*, which is published through MHS.

Janice Farkell was awarded the Dave Walter Research Fellowship, which supports Montana resident researchers involved in public history projects. Farkell will spend a week at the Research Center exploring the history of Brady, Montana.

Farkell is a retired schoolteacher, a volunteer historian for the Conrad and Brady communities, and a fifth-generation resident of the Brady area.

“Recently, I have continued to research and collect Brady his-



Patrick Hoehne



Janice Farkell

tory to share with my community through the new website [Brady Montana History](#),” Farkell wrote in her application. “The website provides the opportunity to share research links as well as information with people interested in the history of Brady. More importantly, the website provides an opportunity for people to share their memories, photos, and stories while preserving them for the future. It, too, has become a community effort.” ★

Three New Interns

We are pleased to have three interns from the Montana State University history department with us in the museum program this summer! All three are working toward their bachelor’s degree in history, with a minor focusing on museum studies.

Caitlynn Gaston is from Bozeman and will enter her senior year at MSU. She is interested in working in the museum field, specifically with a focus on museum registration. She plans to further her studies in graduate school after graduating from MSU next spring.



Elizabeth Wright is from Miles City and is a member of the

National Society of Collegiate Scholars and TRIO SSS (Student Support Services). She also has experience working at the Montana Science Center, formerly the Children’s Museum of Bozeman. She would like to work in collections management after she graduates from MSU after the fall 2021 semester, and is happy to have the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in the museum field.



Ashley Wade is a Helena native who will be entering her junior year at MSU this fall. She credits her childhood visits to MHS as sparking her interests in history and museum studies. She sees

the internship as an opportunity to gain some real-life experience in the museum world.

The trio is assisting the museum program in inventorying and packing artwork and historical objects from the vast permanent collections. Their work includes carefully handling objects, checking them for catalog numbers, assigning temporary numbers, and affixing archival tags to objects. They make sure that basic information for each object is included in the museum database and enter information if needed.



They also create database

New Interns (cont. on p. 7)

Genevieve “Gen” Morgan

A longtime supporter of the Montana Historical Society and frequent visitor, Genevieve Ellen “Gen” Morgan passed away peacefully on April 19, 2021, after a brief illness at Peace Hospice in Great Falls.

Gen was born at home in East Helena in 1928 to immigrant parents Joseph Basti of Italy and Mary Fende Basti of Slovenia.

After graduating from Helena High, Gen worked at the Montana Industrial Accident Board (Workers Comp) until fall of 1948 when she married Robert F. “Bob” Morgan. With Gen’s help, he became a successful and accomplished Western artist and historian. While Bob excelled as a gifted artist, it was Gen—also a quintessential mother and grandmother—who managed the behind-the-scenes work

to keep the business end flowing smoothly. She was his biggest fan and toughest business manager. Because of her, he was able to establish himself in the exciting world of art and art shows.

Gen was preceded in death by her husband, Bob. She is survived by her children Jeanne Ahmann, Bob Morgan (Carl), Tim Morgan (Colleen), Tom Morgan (Jean), and Sue Morgan (Dana), eleven grandchildren, and eighteen great-grandchildren.

A funeral mass was celebrated on April 27 at the St. Helena Cathedral. Memorial donations may be made to the Montana Historical Society’s Robert F. and Genevieve E. Morgan Art Acquisition Fund, 225 No. Roberts St., Helena MT 59620; the Lewis & Clark Library



Genevieve Ellen “Gen” Morgan and Robert F. “Bob” Morgan

Foundation, 120 S. Last Chance Gulch, Helena MT 59601; or Benefis Peace Hospice, 2600 15th Ave. So., Great Falls, MT 59405. ⚡

Heritage Keepers (cont. from p. 1)

is a storyteller of the highest caliber and one of the founders of the nonprofit Ninepipes Museum of Early Montana. As a young boy in the Mission Valley, Cheff spent many evenings listening to elders’ tales of adventure and legends, which kindled his lifelong passion for preserving the past and his cultural heritage.

“With great personal expense and labor, he and his wife Laurel have created the best collection of cultural and historical items displayed in northwest Montana,” wrote Ronald Merwin in a letter of support.

Birdie Real Bird of Garryowen taught Crow tradition and culture at Crow Agency for many years. She is nationally renowned for her beadwork and traditional Crow dolls, which provide a glimpse into the lives of indigenous people of Montana. But perhaps most importantly, she was director of the Montana Indian Language

Preservation Program and helped create the Crow Apsáalooke language app to teach the traditional language.

“She joined other fluent Crow speakers to transcribe and translate Crow words, record traditional Crow songs, and gather pictures, which were used to create the Crow language app, released in 2015,” Martha Kohn and Deb Mitchell wrote in the nominating form. “Birdie has spent her life preserving, creating, and sharing her culture.”

Bev and Gene Allen of Helena are history devotees who amassed an expansive collection of Western and Montana-based books, art, and photographs that is respected by researchers, authors, other collectors, and museums across the West. They also have the best collection of L. A. Huffman’s eastern Montana photographic prints and ephemera.

“The large number of Huffman

photographs in the Allens’ collection encourages us to ponder the transitions chronicled—old ways to new ways and their ramifications to the land and to the people of this area,” wrote Ann Ripley in the nominating form. “By creating this collection, the Allens have provided to all a cohesive body of visual history.” ⚡

New Interns (cont. from p. 6)

records, take digital photographs of each object, and upload them into the database. Then they carefully pack objects using archival materials and box them with other objects, to be placed on pallets for moving within the building and ultimately into the new Montana Heritage Center. They create inventory lists, as well as database lists to track all objects during the packing and moving process. ⚡

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Information on the cost of publication can
be obtained by writing MHS, Helena, MT.

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OGM is Open Again

Tours of the Original Governor's Mansion resumed June 1, after being shuttered during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Guided tours are offered Tuesday through Saturday, beginning every hour on the hour from noon until 3 p.m. Masks are preferred, but not required. Admission is \$4 for adults and \$1 for children. Cash and exact change are preferred.

Tours are limited to groups of ten or fewer. The Original Governor's Mansion is at 304 No. Ewing St. in Helena.

The museum, at 225 North Roberts Street in the Montana Historical Society building, remains open for self-guided tours. Exhibits include featured art by Charles M. Russell; the Neither Empty Nor Unknown gallery, which explores Montana at the time of Lewis and Clark; and Montana Homeland, which examines how people worked, played, raised families, and built communities.

Guided tours of the museum may be available with reservations. Museum admission is \$5 for adults, \$1 for children. The family rate is \$12.

Admission is free at both venues for MHS members. Call (406) 444-4794 to check on tour availability, or if you have any questions. ★

